

Application Number 10/693,005  
Preliminary Amendment

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

**Listing of Claims:**

**Claim 1 (Currently Amended):** A medical device programmer comprising:  
an infrared interface to receive changes to software executed by a processor within the programmer during an infrared communication session; and  
a controller to control the infrared interface to initiate an infrared communication session for a finite period of time in response to following power-up of the programmer.

**Claim 2 (Original):** The programmer of claim 1, wherein the infrared interface is active for approximately 5 to 10 seconds following power-up to seek a communication session.

**Claim 3 (Original):** The programmer of claim 1, wherein the software changes comprise changes to an operating system of the programmer

**Claim 4 (Original):** The programmer of claim 1, wherein the software changes comprise changes to medical device programs.

**Claim 5 (Original):** The programmer of claim 1, further comprising a processor to execute instructions specified by the software changes.

**Claim 6 (Original):** The programmer of claim 1, further comprising a software loading port for loading the software upon assembly of the programmer.

**Claim 7 (Original):** The programmer of claim 6, wherein the software loading port includes a JTAG interface.

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**Claim 8 (Original):** The programmer of claim 6, further comprising a plate member placed to cover the loading port.

**Claim 9 (Original):** The programmer of claim 8, wherein the plate member is printed with identifying information.

**Claim 10 (Original):** The programmer of claim 1, wherein the software includes instructions to implement an embedded operating system within the programmer.

**Claim 11 (Original):** The programmer of claim 1, further comprising:

a first circuit board within the programmer housing, the first circuit board including telemetry circuitry, wherein the telemetry circuit is coupled to an antenna; and  
a second circuit board within the programmer housing, the second circuit board including a display and display circuitry.

**Claim 12 (Original):** The programmer of claim 10, wherein the second circuit board includes control circuitry to control the display and the telemetry circuit, the programmer further comprising an electrical interface between the first and second circuit boards.

**Claim 13 (Canceled).**

**Claim 14 (Original):** The programmer of claim 10, further comprising an internal antenna mounted to the first circuit board on a side of the first circuit board opposite the second circuit board.

**Claim 15 (Original):** The programmer of claim 14, wherein the internal antenna defines an aperture, the programmer further comprising a battery bay extending at least partially into the aperture.

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Claim 16 (Original): The programmer of claim 10, further comprising an external antenna coupled to the telemetry circuitry via a cable.

Claim 17 (Original): The programmer of claim 10, wherein the display is a liquid crystal display.

Claim 18 (Original): The programmer of claim 1, wherein the infrared interface is positioned on a lower side surface of a housing associated with the programmer.

Claim 19 (Original): The programmer of claim 1, wherein the infrared interface is an Infrared Data Association (IRDA) interface.

Claim 20 (New): The programmer of claim 1, wherein the finite period of time is less than or equal to approximately 10 seconds following power-up.

Claim 21 (New): The programmer of claim 1, wherein the medical device programmer is a programmer for an implantable neurostimulator.

Claim 22 (New): A method comprising:

activating an infrared interface in a medical device programmer to initiate an infrared communication session for a finite period of time in response to power-up of the programmer; and

upon establishing the infrared communication session, receiving changes to software executed by a processor within the programmer.

Claim 23 (New): The method of claim 22, wherein activating the infrared interface includes activating the infrared interface approximately 5 to 10 seconds following power-up to seek a communication session.

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**Claim 24 (New):** The method of claim 22, wherein activating the infrared interface includes activating the infrared interface for less than approximately 10 seconds following power-up to seek a communication session.

**Claim 25 (New):** The method of claim 22, wherein the software changes comprise changes to an operating system of the programmer

**Claim 26 (New):** The method of claim 22, wherein the software changes comprise changes to medical device programs.

**Claim 27 (New):** The method of claim 22, further comprising a processor to execute instructions specified by the software changes.

**Claim 28 (New):** The method of claim 22, further comprising loading the software upon assembly of the programmer via a software loading port.

**Claim 29 (New):** The method of claim 28, wherein the software loading port includes a JTAG interface.

**Claim 30 (New):** The method of claim 22, wherein the software includes instructions to implement an embedded operating system within the programmer.

**Claim 31 (New):** The method of claim 22, wherein the infrared interface is an Infrared Data Association (IRDA) interface.